

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0999

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI UNN

UNCLAS HONG KONG 6255

USIAC

USIA FOR IOR/M, IEA; STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - CHINA'S RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBOURS

1. FYI: FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN TODAY'S SOUTH CHINA
MORNING POST UNDER HEADLINE: "CHINA'S RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBOURS."
"

QUOTE

2. CHINA'S ATTITUDE TO THE OVERSEAS CHINESE HAS BEEN NEWLY CLARIFIED
IN THE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH MALAYSIA ON DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION.

3. THE BASIC POLICY OF ENCOURAGING THE OVERSEAS CHINESE TO
INTEGRATE IN THE COMMUNITIES OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY LIVE HAS BEEN

IN EFFECT FOR SOME YEARS.

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4. BUT IT HAS BEEN SPELLED OUT IN CLEAR TERMS AS A RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN PEKING AND WILL INDOUBTEDLY SET THE PATTERN FOR SIMILAR

TALKS WITH THE LEADERS OF OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WHEN THEY DECIDE TO TAKE THE SAME COURSE.

5. IT IS INEVITABLE THAT ALL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WILL SOONER OR LATER SEEK TO REGULARISE THEIR RELATIONS WITH CHINA; THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW MALAYSIA FAIRLY QUICKLY, AND IT CANNOT BE TOO LONG BEFORE SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA DO LIKEWISE.

6. WHETHER SHE WANTS IT OR NOT, CHINA, BY THE SHEER WEIGHT OF HER INFLUENCE, WILL EXERCISE A KIND OF SUBTLE HEGEMONY OVER THE AREA. THE

LINKS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE ARE TOO STRONG TO BE SEVERED ABRUPTLY BY A SIGNATURE ON A DOCUMENT.

7. NEVERTHELESS, THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR: BLOOD LINKS AND POLITICAL DOGMA DO NOT TRANSCEND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND PEKING WILL NOT RESPOND TO CALLS FOR SUPPORT BY DISSIDENT GROUPS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE.

8. PEKING HAS SET HERSELF APART FROM THE OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITIES WHEREVER THEY MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED AND HAS RENOUNCED GUERRILLA ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE OPERATED UNDER THE CLAIMED UMBRELLA OF CHINESE SUPPORT.

9. THIS IS A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF CHINA'S PROCLAIMED POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES (AS SHE HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW ANY ATTEMPT BY OTHERS TO MEDDLE IN HER OWN AFFAIRS).

10. FOR COUNTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS STILL STRUGGLING TO ESTABLISH SECURE AND JUST SOCIAL SYSTEMS THAT BEST MIRROR THEIR OWN ASPIRATIONS,

THIS RE-STATEMENT OF CHINESE POLICY WILL BE WELCOME.

1. EFFECTIVELY, IT REMOVES THE "BIG BROTHER" THREAT; GOVERNMENTS WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO FEAR THAT THEIR ACTIONS MIGHT BRING DOWN THE WRATH OF COMPATRIOTS AT HOME.

12. CHINA CANNOT, HOWEVER, BE EXPECTED TO ESCHEW COMMENT OR
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ACTION THROUGH INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS IN CASES WHERE CHINESE MINORITIES ARE SUBJECTED TO UNREASONABLE OR DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES.

13. BY DECLARING THAT OVERSEAS CHINESE ARE THE SUBJECTS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY LIVE, PEKING IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE STABILITY OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE REGION.

14. THESE GOVERNMENTS MUST NOW CAPITALISE ON THE "FREE HAND"
THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO CLEAN UP TROUBLESOME INSURGENCIES AND TO
OPEN THE WAY TO FULL INTEGRATION OF THE CHINESE COMMUNITIES.

15. EQUALLY, THE OVERSEAS CHINESE MUST NO LONGER LOOK TO PEKING
FOR IDEOLOGICAL GUIDANCE BUT MOVE INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF NATIONAL
LIFE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, TO CONTRIBUTE WHAT THEY CAN TO THE

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY LIVE. UNQUOTE.
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